

Eliot Porter — Route 4, Box 33 — Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 — Tel. 505-982-6010

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The Editor, Peoples Column
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Albuquerque, N. M. 87103

Dear Sir:

A position paper on impeachment of the President recently sent out by Manuel Lujan, Jr. misstates its constitutional meaning. Impeachment is a charge of wrong doing or malfeasance equivalent to indictment in criminal law and does not require proof. The charge is sustained or dismissed in a subsequent trial by the Senate.

Mr. Lujan says that the President cannot be impeached for the crimes committed by anyone other than himself. However, James Madison told the first Congress in 1789 that the President should be subject to impeachment for the misdemeanors of his appointees. Nixon was aware of illegal acts committed by several of his appointees and he even authorized crimes in the name of National Security.

Perversion of the truth and confusion of issues to divert attention from himself is Nixon's modus operandi. He has blamed those responsible to him for the high crimes of his administration. He has distorted history and twisted political facts to create an impression of his own innocence. It is unfortunate that Mr. Lujan seems willing to support this conduct.

Yours truly,

Eliot Porter